

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LATE MAYOR JAMES D. GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THE RUN JIMMY RUN 5K RACE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life and legacy of one of Buffalo's great leaders, our late Mayor James D. Griffin who served as the city's top civic leader from 1978 to 1993, on the occasion of the first race held in his honor, the Run Jimmy Run 5k.

Inspired by Mayor Griffin's tenacious spirit, dedication to the City of Buffalo, and commitment to good works and good causes, the Run Jimmy Run 5k kicks off at 10 am on July 21, 2013. The proceeds from the day's events will benefit the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York. Additionally, items will be donated to the City Mission and baseball tickets will be donated to the Special Olympics, organizations that were near and dear to Mayor Griffin's heart.

Beginning at One James D. Griffin Plaza, in front of the baseball stadium for which Mayor Griffin was the driving force behind building, the race course passes through the heart of downtown and along the waterfront. After the race's completion at home plate, there will be a post-race party and Bison's baseball game.

The Run Jimmy Run charity event was initiated by Mayor Griffin's children to honor the memory of their father and raise funds for an organization that they came to rely on in a very personal way. Mayor Griffin succumbed to a rare neurodegenerative disorder and many of the nurses who cared for him were trained by the Alzheimer's Association.

Alzheimer's is a tough disease that touches many of our lives. It's critically important that we continue to fight for increased funding for Alzheimer's research and I pledge to continue that fight in Washington. I wish to sincerely thank all those involved with the Run Jimmy Run 5k, especially Mayor Griffin's three children Maureen, Megan and Thomas, for their efforts in the fight against Alzheimer's.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to remember the incredible legacy of our late Mayor James D. Griffin and the work he has inspired for the future of Buffalo. I can think of no better tribute to the man who brought professional baseball back to Buffalo than a run through downtown Buffalo, followed by a ballgame at "The Field that Jimmy Built." I wish to extend all participants and organizers a successful run and fun-filled day with special thanks to Mayor Griffin's children, extended family and friends for honoring the life and legacy of the late, great Mayor James D. Griffin.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT CLIFFORD M. WOOLDRIDGE AS THE 2013 MARINE CORPS TIMES MARINE OF THE YEAR

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Clifford M. Wooldridge, an "Everyday Hero" as the 2013 Marine of the Year. SSgt. Wooldridge was previously awarded the Navy Cross for heroism in Afghanistan. In 2012 he was awarded the USO Marine of the Year. SSgt. Wooldridge has continued to serve his country both professionally as a Marine and through volunteering. He was selected as the Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year for his volunteerism and bravery in combat.

The Marine Corps Times honors servicemembers, like SSgt. Wooldridge, who demonstrate pride, dedication, and courage beyond expectations. He is an instructor with the Marine Corps Security Force Regiment and teaches and mentors junior Marines. He teaches them technical skills they will need in close quarter combat and shares personal stories so they can learn from previous mistakes.

Professional duties aside, it is SSgt. Wooldridge's service to his community that has earned him this latest honor. He has spent countless hours assisting disabled and recovering veterans with the Wounded Warrior Project and served as an athlete sponsor and was the host Marine for the Special Olympics in Virginia Beach. He helped a terminally ill young man receive recognition as an honorary Marine. While all his volunteer activities are important to him, SSgt. Wooldridge has a special passion for the Honored American Veterans Afield, which helps combat veterans transition through hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

SSgt. Wooldridge's outdoor skills were honed in his hometown of Port Angeles, in Washington State, the place where I, too, was born and raised. There he experienced the beautiful and plentiful natural resources found only on the Olympic Peninsula. Graduating from Port Angeles High School in 2006, SSgt. Wooldridge completed training as a diesel mechanic and left his home in the Pacific Northwest for a life as a Marine in service to others.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with confidence that our community is a better place thanks to the ongoing, selfless commitment of people like SSgt. Wooldridge. The Port Angeles community applauds SSgt. Wooldridge for his service to country and we honor him today as the 2013 Marine of the Year. On behalf of our thankful nation, thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SLOVAK DAY CELEBRATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Slovak Day Celebration. In honor of this momentous occasion, a commemorative event will take place on Sunday, July 21, 2013 at the Salvatorian Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana.

The first Slovak Day Celebration took place at the Seven Dolores Shrine in Valparaiso, Indiana in 1973, when Father Joseph Viater, along with Betty and Carl Yurechko, decided that Slovak heritage and culture should be honored in Northwest Indiana with a day of celebration.

Slovak Day has been a great success over the years, and the day is celebrated each year with a Slovak Catholic Mass, followed by traditional Slovak food and performances by Slovak dancers. Throughout the years, many bishops have come to celebrate this significant event, including Bishop Sokol from Slovakia, Bishop Adamec of Pennsylvania, and Bishops Andrew G. Grutka and Dale J. Melczek of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana. Additionally, over the past 40 years, many dedicated volunteers from Slovak churches throughout the region have given their time and efforts to this day.

I would like to take this time to recognize the numerous hardworking committee members for their outstanding dedication to this event. They are Betty Yurechko, Lillian and John Zaborske, Agnes Chervenak, Melissa and Jason Yurechko, Ann Fedorchak, Leona Cupka, Elaine Ruzbasan, Betty Ortiz, Andy Sacek, Irene Horn Riggio, and Reverend John Kalicky.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Slovak Day Celebration. The Slovak community has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. For their commitment to preserving Slovak heritage, the committee members, church leaders, and volunteers are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING OFFICER DANIEL "JJ" LOMAX

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Daniel Lomax, a firefighter and police officer who laid down his life in the service and protection of his community. Officer Lomax's End of Watch was Saturday, June 22, 2013.

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